

weighing and counting combined of the individual pieces of this fourth and second-class matter, according to its natural subdivision, in such manner as to show not merely the weight of a piece of such matter, but the average weight of the individual pieces according to the classification in respect of character and method of the handling; the ascertainment of the average haul of all classes of mail matter under each subdivision of those classes; and the ascertainment of the average load of railway post-offices, as well as the average load of storage cars.

Continuing, the report says:

**Postmaster in Accord.**

"This commission is in accordance with the views of the Postmaster-General that the whole business system of the postal service should be examined and overhauled by a set of expert accountants and statisticians, to be secured from the ranks of those professions outside the department. It is believed that this examination can best be made through the agency of Congress.

"The commission realizes that this is a task of great magnitude, but it must not be forgotten that great interests are at stake. It involves, first, the expenditure every year of \$175,000,000 of the people's money. It will shortly involve even more than that, for at the rate at which the postal service is growing it will not be many years before the annual expenditure is \$250,000,000, or even \$300,000,000.

The commission recommends, "the scheme of progressive reduction of compensation for mail carried in excess of 5,000 pounds per day." It leaves untouched the present rate of \$11.10 for the daily average weight of 5,000 pounds, for the reason that we do not believe that density of that degree only permits sufficient economies in the methods of transportation to justify a lowered compensation. Where the daily weight, however, is in excess of 5,000 pounds, we think that the economies above mentioned are possible and can be increasingly utilized.

**Progressive Reduction.**

"The scheme of reduction which we recommend is, therefore, progressive, beginning with a five per cent. reduction between 5,000 pounds and 45,000 pounds and increasing to ten per cent. between 45,000 and 80,000 pounds and thereafter at the reduced rate of \$18 per ton per mile per annum carried instead of the present rate of \$21.57."

It is estimated by the officials of the railway mail service that the total decrease in compensation effected by the reduction above recommended will be, for the first year (1908), approximately \$5,000,000.

**Four Defects.**

The commission points out that there are four cardinal defects in the present system of charges for second-class matter, as follows:

"The difference between the second-class rate and the next higher rate, or third-class rate, is too great. In other words, the second-class rate is relatively too low.

"The dissimilar services are performed for the same rate.

"Substantially similar services are charged different rates. The second-class rate is probably too low, absolutely speaking."

Concerning the first defect, the commission says:

"The mere fact that the next higher rate—that for printed matter—is 80 per cent. greater than the periodical rate creates an almost irresistible temptation to give all printed matter the periodical rate. Immediately thereafter, printed matter are put up in periodical form, not because that form is either essential or proper to it, but for the bald purpose of accomplishing its distribution at the cent-a-pound rate.

**Raise Rate.**

"It is then pointed out that this abnormal disproportion does not exist outside of the United States and Canada. As a remedy for the disparity between the receipts and the cost in connection with the transportation of mail, the commission suggests that the practice no longer continue of charging on a losing basis the same rate for wholly dissimilar services. In other words, it says to classify the rates according to the service.

In this connection it is suggested that the increment of postage for the increment of weight above the first four ounces should be one-half cent for each additional four ounces.

The commission holds with regard to fiction matter that the classification which puts a complete novel in one class and a novel published serially in another class is a false classification altogether. With regard to newspapers, the commission maintains that the prime duty of the statute defining what constitutes a newspaper is that the purpose described is so broad as to include everything and exclude nothing. "With the exception of a few instances," it says, "where the publication has been excluded because the information was deemed not to be public, no periodical has ever been classified by the application of tests of this kind."

"Any attempt to apply them generally would simply end in a press censorship."

While admitting that its recommendations do not afford a complete and final solution of the problem, the commission is of the opinion that the changes recommended will accomplish everything that has been claimed for them; that they are exceedingly conservative and may be put into operation without disturbing to any considerable degree the important interests concerned.

**Freshet in Mississippi.**

WASHINGTON, January 27.—The Weather Bureau to-night issued the following bulletin:

"No chance for previous forecast as to a freshet in the lower Mississippi River. Stages Sunday morning were as follows:

At Memphis, 50.3 feet, and stationary; Memphis, 25.7 feet, a rise of .3 foot; Arkansas City, 48.7 feet, a rise of .2 foot; Greenville, 42.5 feet, a rise of .1 foot; and New Orleans, 17.8 feet, a rise of .1 foot.

That the letters had some important

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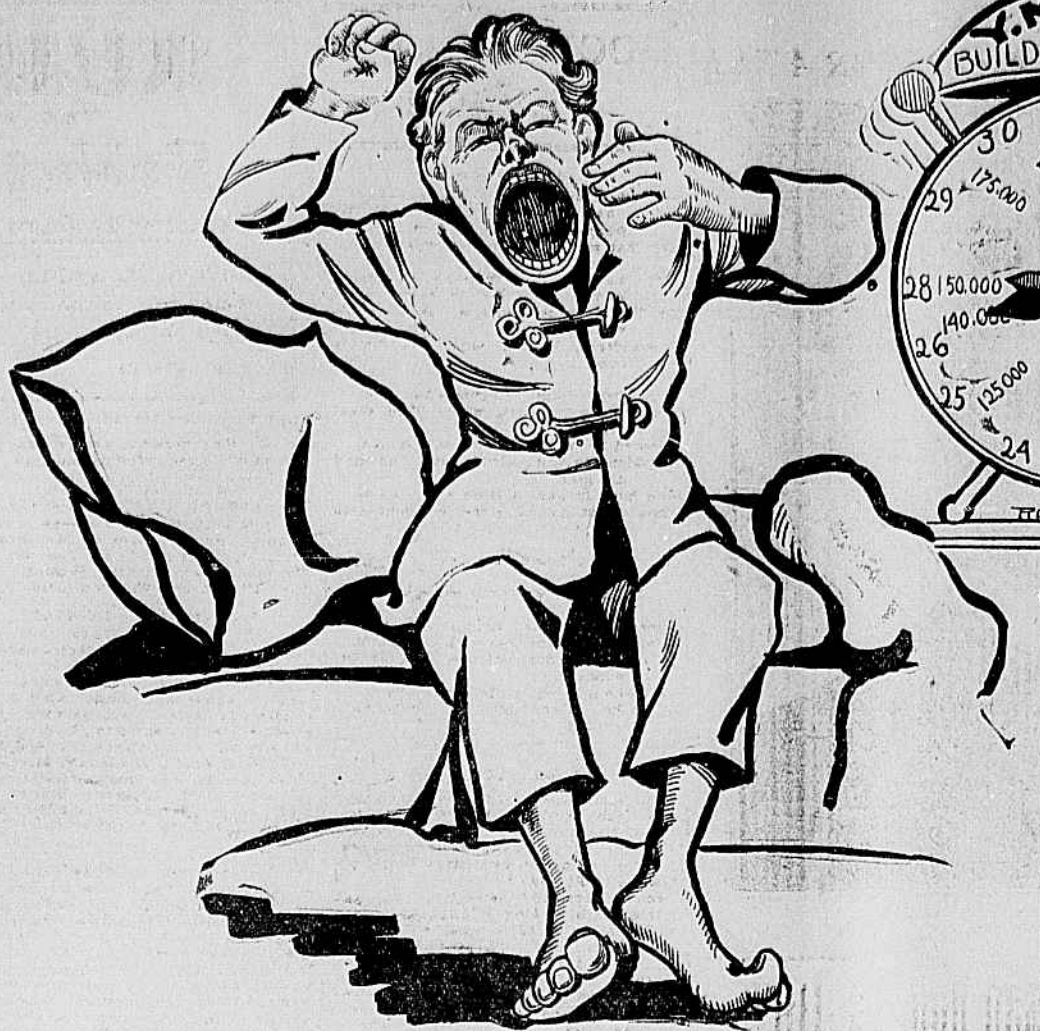
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WAKE UP!

## BIG MASS-MEETING SOUNDS NEED OF Y. M. C. A. FOR FUNDS

The Sum of Sixty Thousand Dollars Must Be Raised in Richmond  
In Four Days—The End of Great Campaign  
Now Drawing Near.

"I do not know which rock is going to be smitten, but I believe that we are going to do great things for the Young Men's Christian Association in the next four days. I believe that some of those who are well able to give are going to soften, but I hope that they are going to soften faster. The delay has been fatiguing to me and, I am sure, to all of us."

This was the hope thrown out by Mr. Joseph Bryan, chairman of the citizens' committee of the Young Men's Christian Association building fund campaign, to a large attendance of men at the Academy of Music yesterday afternoon. The meeting had been called, especially to give the young men and citizens of Richmond an opportunity of hearing Mr. Bryan and Mr. Charles S. Ward, of Chicago, international field secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association, in short addresses regarding the association and the present campaign.

An illustrated song service was conducted by General Secretary McKee from 3:30 until 4 o'clock, when Mr. O. Hawkins, president of the Richmond Association, took charge of the meeting. Mr. Hawkins introduced Mr. Bryan with a few complimentary remarks about the work of the latter in promoting the welfare of Richmond.

**Scope of Y. M. C. A. Work.**

"I feel greatly embarrassed in being able to say what I feel," said Mr. Bryan in beginning his address. "There are three great things in which I enlisted in my life. The first was the Confederate army, the second was the Democratic party (I mention this as an explanatory and not to recall unpleasant conditions) to assist in the reconstruction after the war, and the third was the Y. M. C. A., which has inspired me as much as either of the other two causes."

"We are beginning to understand more and more the scope and measure of the original Christian spirit. In the days of the medieval ages men punished themselves and women fled to convents when the general desire was to save their own little souls. It has only been since men have tried to do something for other men that we have come back to the genuine Christian spirit. We must help in the measures taken to assist the young men to avoid and resist temptations. Even if we should fail in the present campaign we will have laid the foundations for a future Richmond that cannot be taken away from us. I would rather have the efforts of the noble young souls who have helped in this campaign than checks from wealthy men to erect the entire building."

Mr. Bryan then referred to the present stage of the campaign in the words given above, adding that he believed it was going to close successfully. He praised the work of Mr. Ward, and expressed his cordial appreciation of the work of the gentlemen in coming to the city. The local officers to raise the \$200,000 required.

**What Mr. Ward Says.**

Mr. Ward told of the splendid work the association was doing in the semi-civilized parts of the West, especially in the mining section, and how there were demands from every point for the organization of associations and the erection of large buildings where associations existed. He said statistics showed that in the cities of the United States with a population of over 10,000, over eighty per cent. of the young men were away from home, emphasizing the need for some suitable place for their physical, mental and moral development while away from home influences. His closing remarks were words of encouragement.

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### GOVERNOR ON Y.M.C.A.

"I am deeply concerned in the success of this movement, and know of nothing that could contribute more to the prosperity, growth and improvement of Richmond than the success of this campaign. It would be a great misfortune to Richmond if this enterprise should not succeed to the fullest extent."—Governor Swanson, in letter to president of Y. M. C. A.

building. The poorest of all charities is the check given without the interested heart, the spirit of giving without wanting to. But God takes some very crooked sticks to do His work, and we need all the timber we can get.

**Their Duty.**

"I cannot get over how it is that some men feel that they have done their duty to the community when they have paid their taxes and fulfilled other legal obligations. They forget that there is no law to compel them to be civil to a lady, to save a drowning man, even if they are standing by with a rope in their hands, and yet it would be murder if not done. There is no law to compel a son to keep his mother from going to a poorhouse. If we are going to live in a state of civilization, of humanity, we have to fulfill more than our legal obligations."

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agement for the men who have labored so energetically since the campaign started.

"It is going to be a success," he said, "and it will be largely due to the efforts of boys and young men whose superiors are not to be found in the country."

**Letter From Governor.**

The following letter from Governor Swanson was read by Mr. Hawkins:

"I regret exceedingly that a previous engagement in Washington precludes me from accepting your very kind invitation to be present at the mass meeting to be held in Richmond next Sunday in behalf of the Young Men's Christian Association campaign fund. I assure you that if I had received your invitation previous to making the above engagement I would have accepted with a great deal of pleasure."

"I am deeply concerned in the success of this movement, and know of nothing that could contribute more to the prosperity, growth and improvement of Richmond than the success of this campaign. My experiences and observations have taught me that no associations can prosper the Young Men's Christian Association in its practical good work and benefit, not only to the moral, but also to the business and material development of a city. It would be a great misfortune to Richmond if this enterprise should not succeed to the fullest extent."

The regular meeting of the Seventh Street Christian Church Sunday-school yesterday morning the sum of \$25 was voted to be given to the building fund through the younger members of the school, who had already raised some money.

**Work of Boys.**

Rev. Dr. Frank T. McFadden, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, spoke strongly in favor of the association at the regular service yesterday morning, urging every member of his congregation to assist in the movement for a new building. "The best investments that I have made," said Dr. McFadden, "have been to help churches and the Y. M. C. A."

The boys of the association announced at their Bible class meeting yesterday afternoon that they had raised \$100 for the building fund.

The total of the fund Saturday night was \$140,000. About \$50,000 has to be raised in four days, the larger amounts having been given conditional on the balance of the \$200,000 being obtained by January 31st.

divorced husband of Harriet Blaine, daughter of former Secretary Blaine, a wealthy Californian, clubman and chum of Thaw's, returned to this city to-day after having been absent ever since the night when on Madison Square Roof Garden the young Pittsburgh millionaire fired the three shots that ended Stanford White's life.

Beale and Thomas McCaleb were with Harry Thaw and Evelyn Nesbit Thaw in the Cafe Martin, where Thaw, that fatal night, first encountered White. It is certain that Beale knows what happened, and what White did, and said or wrote, in the cafe. If there was one, that White is alleged to have forwarded to Evelyn, which brought about the tragedy a couple of hours later. And now it seems certain that he will come forward and tell what he knows in the hope that it may help to save his reckless young companion from the electric chair.

Since last June, Beale has been said at various times to have been in Europe, in Mexico, in Canada and in divers other places far from the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth of New York. He did not enlighten any one—except, perhaps, the Thaw lawyers—on that point to-day. He came here, however, from Augusta, Me., where he has been visiting his children.

It is expected now that Young McCaleb, who was the fourth member

of the Thaw party at dinner in the Cafe Martin, will also present himself and take the stand for the defense, and that even details of the conversations and actions of Harry Thaw, Evelyn Nesbit and Stanford White, will be told by these two men.

**HARTRIDGE SAYS THAW'S DEFENSE WILL BE SURE**

NEW YORK, January 27.—Clifford W. Hartridge, chief counsel in the Thaw defense, made the following statement to-day:

"Counsel for the defense are doing all in their power to facilitate the selection of an unbiased jury; not because there is any fear, as reported, that the accused is in danger of mental or physical collapse, but that we can get him out of jail as soon as possible."

"We have no intention of revealing the line of our defense until the proper time arrives. And that time will not come until the prosecution has rested its case. A surprise will be sprung in the defense which has not been introduced so far as I know in any previously tried case."

**Sure of Vindication.**

"Thaw and his attorneys are practically certain that he will be absolutely acquitted and vindicated. We have never from the very beginning considered that he was in danger of the death chair or incarceration in a madhouse."

"The fact that young Howard Nesbit and his mother, Mrs. Holman, may testify for the prosecution does not interest the defense in the slightest degree. That contingency is the least of our worry."

**MISS MCKENZIE DECLARES THERE IS NO DISSENSION**

NEW YORK, January 27.—Indignant at stories published regarding her presence at the Thaw trial as the companion of Evelyn Nesbit Thaw, Miss May MacKenzie made the following statement to-night:

"I shall certainly attend court Monday morning with my dear friend, Mrs. Evelyn Nesbit Thaw. I cannot believe that Harry K. Thaw has made any request that I cease attending the trial with his wife."

"There is no truth in the report that I am not on friendly terms with any of the Thaw family. It is cruel and untrue to circulate such rumors, and as I am a witness, subpoenaed at the trial, I shall certainly be present."

The presence of Miss MacKenzie at every session of the trial can be justified on altogether different grounds. If necessary, rather than close friendship for the wife of the accused man.

**WM. B. OLIVER GETS CONTRACT**

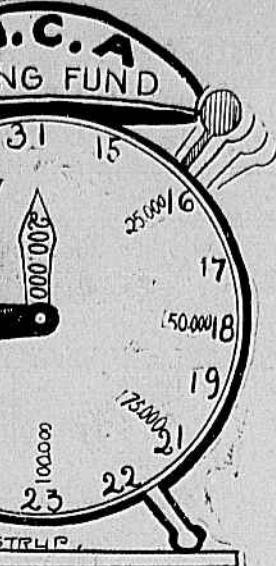
(Continued from First Page.)

figure mentioned in their original bid. The President, Secretary Taft and the Canal Commission officials then decided to award the contract to Mr. Oliver, provided he could make satisfactory arrangements with at least two other financially responsible contractors.

Secretary Taft and R. R. Rogers, general counsel to the canal commission, were in conference with the President for two hours to-night, and the whole matter was again gone over. At the direction of the President Mr. Rogers prepared the official statement for the press.

When informed of the statement issued by direction of the President, Mr. Oliver's representatives to-night said: "There is absolutely no doubt about Mr. Oliver being able to fulfill the requirements of the canal commission. There are now at least twenty of the most responsible contractors in the United States who have expressed a willingness to join Mr. Oliver in the work of constructing the canal at the figure mentioned in his original bid. These names will be submitted to President Roosevelt to-morrow with proof of their financial responsibility."

Before entering into another arrangement Mr. Oliver wants to know positively that the contractor he chooses will be acceptable to the government.



### KING PETER TO BE DEPOSED

Conspirators Do Not, However, Propose to Assassinate the Serbian Monarch.

WILL SIMPLY EJECT HIM

At the Appointed Time Alexander's Successor Will Be Quietly Expelled.

BERGRADE, SERBIA, January 27.—The conspirators against King Peter have completed their plans for his removal, which will be accomplished by a military coup d'etat.

No bloodshed will be permitted to increase the disgrace which Serbia still bears the murder of King Alexander and Queen Draga. Although military force will be used passively, the King and his family will be quietly conveyed to the frontier and expelled from Serbian soil.

At the time appointed, the palace will be surrounded by soldiers to ensure the safe and peaceable accomplishment of the deposition.

King Peter and his family, once out of the country, the overtures which the plotters have already commenced to obtain a foreign prince for the throne will enter a decisive stage.

As the American correspondent has already stated, the favorite selection for Serbia's next King is Prince Arthur, of Connaught, but it is very doubtful whether he or any other prince would be willing to take the risk.

If no new King is obtainable a republic will be proclaimed.

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**Ex-Governor Higgins Better.**

OLEAN, N. Y., January 27.—Dr. Hibbard to-night gave out this bulletin:

"Mr. Higgins has passed a comfortable day, and during the last forty-eight hours has lost nothing. He has held his own in all particulars."

**Snow in Danville.**

DANVILLE, VA., January 27.—The